

Everything's coming up 'slide' along the Front

By Michael Morris
Deseret News staff writer

6 Apr 1984

OREM — Last year's wet winter and this spring's anticipated high runoff make Utah County and other areas skirting the Wasatch Front prime targets for more mudslides and landslides, says state geologist Bruce N. Kaliser.

Kaliser, speaking Thursday at an Orem Chamber of Commerce business luncheon, said the wet cycle Utah has experienced the last couple of years has contributed to the first major earth movements in Utah in thousands of years.

"In the Wasatch Front zone we have conditions very conducive to land sliding," said Kaliser, chief of the Hazards Section for the Urban and Engineering Geology Section of Utah.

"There are numerous slides along the mountain fronts in Utah County, and they're not small. Many are taking off and moving more significantly this year," he said. "It's just unfortunate that last year's spring is followed by another horrendous spring this year."

Kaliser believes this spring's slide problems could be worse because of numerous slopes along

the Wasatch Front that became destabilized last year. "I don't think we've given nearly enough attention to where these unstable areas are or have been," he said.

Kaliser said it was difficult to predict the extent and potential impact of this year's anticipated landslides and mudslides, but he said repercussions could be worse than last year.

"There's a clear indication of what we said could happen, will happen," said Kaliser. "The potential is there to affect highways, river channels and who knows what else."

Kaliser said state geologists and officials from Utah County have been closely monitoring the Thistle Dam area for potential slides.

"It's likely that there will be further movements (in the area)," he said. He added that it was improbable the dam will move, but he said the possibility still exists.

He said slide problems often have serious impact on Utah residents because many of the state's early settlements occurred near rivers at the mouth of canyons. Kaliser said some cities, such

Stage is set for slides

Continued from U-1

as Bountiful and Farmington, are built on alluvial fans — clay and sand deposited by moving water. He said the mudslides that hit the cities "are part of a never-ending process in the geological sense."

In Utah County, Kaliser said the most serious slides are likely to occur in Payson Canyon, Hobble Creek Canyon above Spanish Fork and Provo Canyon — where a hydro station flume at the mouth of the canyon is already being threatened by a slide.

Kaliser said the state has experienced serious "debris flows" in the past during the 1920s and 1930s, but he said they were a result of flash flooding.

"This is the first wet cycle to have created debris flows from snow.

melting" since the state was settled, he said. He said Utah has experienced previous problems with landslides and mudslides from melting snow, "but nothing like what happened last year."

Kaliser said problems such as Salem's sinkholes also could be compounded this year.

"When you add moisture to certain types of desert soil, it can actually collapse the soil," he said. "It's a horrendous problem for city officials in Salem."

Kaliser is also predicting serious problems to result from the runoff into Great Salt Lake, which he said has risen an unprecedented 6 inches in the past two weeks.

"That spells considerable trouble," he said.

See STAGE on U-2

using in the '80s and can't find it," said. "Unless something is done, the students of today won't be able to find affordable housing in the future."

Shirley McVay Wiseman, general-deputy assistant secretary for housing, said the federal government is determined to eliminate necessary costs that add to the price tag.

"Our first goal is to get rid of the endless regulations that can add up to \$10,000 to a home," she said.

A joint effort involving HUD, local government and the private sector can bring about the changes needed, she said.

HUD is sponsoring a program called the Joint Venture for Affordable Housing, which speeds up permitting times and makes minor changes in local regulations without affecting safety or quality, she

said. John E. Matthews at Young University Thursday.

private adjutant general, housing can be at the Army less than others' banquet held she said.

She said the program allows young couples realize that, can Dream of owning a home.

Ms. Wiseman told the audience of contractors and prospective home builders that new home construction has doubled in 1983 over the drastic drop in home building during the recession.

"The interest cost alone has dropped \$240 per month for a home buyer, allowing millions of couples to be able to afford housing," she said.

Jay Newitt, coordinator of the BYU building construction program, said everyone, including builders, is concerned with the cost of housing.



Matthews

Matthews said it is important to allow the supremacy of God should stand on their regardless of who suggests

forthright action is essential leadership and is not to be affected by the action opportunity to give their the proposed action in addition, Matthews said.

The Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America Award was presented to Samuel Carr by Capt. Scott Wright, substituting for Mrs. Albert L. Lewis.

Brian Critchett received the Daughters of the American Revolution Award, which was presented by Grace Croft Christensen.

The Elks Lodge Gold Cup went to William Boucher. Presenting the award was Raymond M. Klauch, Springville.

The American Legion Military Excellence Award was presented jointly to David Haight and Jack Trowbridge. It was presented by Ret. Lt. Col. Kenneth J. Nix.

Matthew Whitney received the Sons of the American Revolution Award from Ret. Maj. Albert A. Smith.

In addition, there were nearly 30 awards presented to cadets for their performance and leadership during the past year.

Introduction of the speaker and closing remarks were by Lt. Col. Brigham S. Shuler, chairman of the military science department at BYU.

CAMPBELL, Mr. and Mrs. John, Provo, girl.

CHRISTENSEN, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, Payson, boy.

CHRISTIANSEN, Mr. and Mrs. Brent, Mapleton, girl.

COWLEY, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Provo, boy.

EVANS, Mr. and Mrs. Chris, Orem, boy.

FIELDING, Mr. and Mrs. Brian, Provo, boy.

FLORES, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory, Provo, boy.

FOSTER, Mr. and Mrs. Mark, Orem, girl.

GIBBS, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, Provo, girl.

HAWARD, Mr. and Mrs. Glen, Provo, boy.

HIBBERT, Mr. and Mrs. Donald, Orem, boy.

HUNTER, Mr. and Mrs. Keith, Orem, boy.

JORGENSEN, Mr. and Mrs. Greg, Provo, girl.

MERINO, Mr. and Mrs. Antonio, Provo, boy.

MIKESELL, Mr. and Mrs. Blaine, Orem, girl.

MULDER, Mr. and Mrs. James, Provo, boy.

Justices chairman